

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 691

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Tommy West and the University of Memphis football team on an admirable 2007 season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of our great athletic teams, those that work hard, make the necessary sacrifices, and achieve success; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding 2007 University of Memphis football team, which posted a record of 6-2 in conference play and an overall record of 7-6, is clearly one such team; and

WHEREAS, winning five of their last six regular season games, the Tigers won more games than ever before in their conference, Conference USA; and

WHEREAS, the team's stellar performance allowed them to compete against Florida Atlantic in the 2007 New Orleans Bowl, making this the fourth time in five seasons that the Tigers participated in a bowl game; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers won the school's first overtime victory ever, as it defeated Southern Methodist University in a game that stretched to three overtimes; and

WHEREAS, Memphis secured its 425th school victory against the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Battle for the Bones Contest, in which the Tigers mauled the Blazers by a score of 25-9; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers' impressive performance earned them rankings amongst the top fifteen nationally in six different categories, including fewest fumbles lost, sacks allowed, fourth down conversions, passing offense, and turnover margin; and

WHEREAS, during a season with both highs and lows, Coach West's consistent leadership ensured the ultimate success of the season, and brought his total career wins with

the institution to forty-one. Coach West is one of just four University of Memphis head coaches to log more than forty wins at the school; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Tiger players, led by quarterback Martin Hankins, who has thrown for over three thousand yards and holds the school's single season records for yards, completions, and touchdowns, earned numerous accolades for their performances both on the gridiron and in the classroom: Andy Smith, Duke Calhoun, and Jake Kasser were selected for the All-Conference USA Team, Jake Kasser and Brandon Patterson were chosen for the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District first team, Brandon Patterson became the first Tiger football player since 1992 to be named an Academic All-American when he was chosen for the second team, Brandon Patterson and Jake Kasser were selected for the Conference USA All-Academic Team, and Andy Smith received the 2007 Peach of an Athlete Role Model Award from the Atlanta Sports Council; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the University of Memphis Tigers and Coach Tommy West for a great season, one that has reflected tremendous credit on the team and the school; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Tommy West and the 2007 University of Memphis football team on an excellent season and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.